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The colony declared free from plague—Presence of the disease among rodents.

HONGKONG, CHINA, September 22, 1902.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith an abstract of the bills of health issued at this station during the week ended September 20, 1902. Seven vessels were inspected, 402 individuals were bathed at the disinfecting station, and 521 pieces of baggage were disinfected. There were 7 rejections during the week from all causes. Because of damage received during the recent typhoon the disinfecting hulk was in dock for five days undergoing repairs. The plant was therefore not available for disinfection during that time.

No cases of plague having developed among human beings since September 8, 1902, the colony has been declared free from plague infection by the local authorities. This, however, does not take into account the prevalence of the disease among rodents, rats dead of plague having been found, during the week ended September 13, 1902, both in Hongkong and Kowloon. Four cases and 4 deaths from cholera were reported during the week, making a total in the city thus far since the beginning of the outbreak of 459 cases and 396 deaths. One case of diphtheria and 1 case of enteric fever were also reported during the week.

Respectfully,

JOHN W. KERR,
Assistant Surgeon.

The SURGEON-GENERAL.

Reports from Shanghai—Cholera situation.

SHANGHAI, CHINA, September 6, 1902.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith abstract of bills of health issued at this port for the week ended September 6, 1902. There were inspected during the week 2 vessels, 68 crew, and 11 cabin passengers. Shipping orders were viséd for 30,007 pieces of freight and 294 pieces were rejected. One member of the crew of the schooner *F. M. Slade* was rejected on account of fever. Forty-three pieces cabin passengers' baggage were inspected.

The cholera situation is as follows:

Cities.—Nanking, epidemic, 40,000 deaths; Foochow, epidemic; Shouyanghsien, epidemic, 3,000 cases per day; Hsinchou, epidemic; Taiyuanfu, epidemic; Hsiaotientze, epidemic; Shouyang, epidemic; Shihlich, epidemic; Chenglohien, epidemic; Kinkiang, reported; Nanchangfu, reported; Sheoyang, reported; Hankow, reported; Tientsin, reported; Soochow, reported.

Provinces.—Hunan, reported; Shansi, reported.

The Japanese steamship *Saiho Maru*, Shanghai to Kobe via Nagasaki, developed 3 cases of cholera, it is reported, between the latter place and destination, and the *Kobe Maru*, Nagasaki to Shanghai, had 1 death from the disease. It is supposed that in both cases the disease was contracted in Nagasaki. It is reported that there have been 4,329 cases and 1,650 deaths from cholera in Japan.

One case of cholera developed among the crew of the ship *County of Roxbury*, lying in this harbor. As she is to sail for the United States, I have just finished disinfection of her living compartments and water-closets with sulphur dioxide and bichloride of mercury. She will be under observation five days before sailing.

During the week there were reported in the municipality 1 death

from smallpox, 49 deaths from cholera, and 3 from diphtheria. Among the European population there was 1 case of typhoid fever and 1 case of scarlet fever.

Respectfully,

S. H. RANSOM,
Acting Assistant Surgeon.

The SURGEON-GENERAL.

SHANGHAI, CHINA, *September 14, 1902.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith abstract of bills of health issued at this port for the week ended September 13, 1902. There were inspected during the week 4 vessels, 133 crew, 3 first and 1 second cabin passengers, and 15 pieces of baggage. Shipping orders were viséed for 13,321 pieces of freight; 3 pieces were disinfected and 241 rejected. The living compartments, bath rooms, and water-closets of 1 ship were disinfected on account of 1 case of cholera having occurred among the crew, sulphur gas and 5 per cent of bichloride of mercury solution 1-500 being used for the purpose. Bedding and clothing had to be subjected to sulphur gas, there being no other method of disinfection available here.

There was some falling off in the number of cholera cases in the interior, so far as I can learn, while in the municipality the situation was as follows: Deaths among natives, 23; no deaths among whites.

The other diseases reported were 4 typhoid fever and 1 scarlet fever among Europeans, and 1 death from the latter disease among Chinese.

Respectfully,

S. H. RANSOM,
Acting Assistant Surgeon.

The SURGEON-GENERAL.

COLOMBIA.

Weekly report of conditions and transaction at Bocas del Toro—Fruit port.

BOCAS DEL TORO, COLOMBIA, *October 7, 1902.*

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report of the conditions and transactions at this port during the week ended October 6, 1902:

Population according to census, not obtainable. Number of cases and deaths from yellow fever during the week, none; number of cases and deaths from smallpox during the week, none; number of cases and deaths from typhus fever during the week, none; number of cases and deaths from cholera during the week, none; number of cases and deaths from plague during the week, none; number of deaths from other causes during the week, 1. Prevailing diseases, malarial. The 1 death noted was an adult female, and due to tuberculosis. General sanitary condition of this port and the surrounding country during the week, good.

Bills of health were issued to the following vessels: October 1, steamship *Hispania*; crew, 22; passengers from this port, none; passengers in transit, none; baggage disinfected, none. October 4, steamship *Harald*; crew, 20; passengers from this port, none; passengers in transit, none; baggage disinfected, none; steamship *Colombia*; crew, 18; passengers from this port, none; passengers in transit, none; baggage disinfected, none.

Respectfully,

PAUL OSTERHOUT,
Acting Assistant Surgeon.

The SURGEON-GENERAL.